



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Articles from
Preparednessmama
Page 1

Water Storage Law of 3's
Pages 1—2

The Family Emergency
Plan
Page 2

Disaster Ready
Page 3

Trash Day
Page 3

December 13 Holiday
Party Photos (continued)
Pages 4—7

CERT
Mission Statement,
CPR Classes,
Newsletter Staff
Page 8



CLASS 1

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1991

February 2015

Articles from Preparednessmama.com

By Virginia Petrelis

Thanks to Stephanie Vasquez for telling me about the www.Preparednessmama.com website. There is so much useful information that I could read for hours. We are including two articles below in this month's newsletter.

I. The Water Storage Law of 3's Store It, Find It, Treat It

By Shelle Wells at <http://preparednessmama.com/category/emergency-preparedness-4/>

There are rules for everything – including water storage.

We really take water for granted these days. It can be found at every store and at every faucet. It's inexpensive to purchase and it's essential to daily life. They say you cannot survive beyond three days without water. I don't know about you, but I'd be pretty unhappy after one day without it. Day two would be agony and by day three I'd be doing whatever I could to find drinkable water. In times of emergency you will feel the same way.

The Water Storage Law of 3's is this – be sure you know three ways to get your water. That means you need to be sure that you:

- Take the time to **Store** it before you need it
- Can **Find** it when you need it
- Know how to **Treat** it when you find it

Storing Water

The daily recommendation for water storage from FEMA is one gallon – per person – per day, and they suggest you should have at least two weeks of water stored. A family of four needs access to 56 gallons at a minimum. It might sound like a lot, but that really does mean MINIMUM.

Have you ever tried to survive on one gallon of water a day for drinking, washing and cleaning? I guarantee you are going to want more!

While FEMA recommends purchasing your water, I think it worth your while to learn how to fill your own containers and use your home water source if at all possible.

Here are [FEMA's recommendations for reusing liter bottles and other food grade containers](#).

Thoroughly clean the bottles with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely so there is no residual soap. Additionally, for plastic soft drink bottles sanitize them by adding a solution of 1 teaspoon of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to a quart (1/4 gallon) of water. Swish the sanitizing solution in the bottle so that it touches all surfaces. After sanitizing the bottle, thoroughly rinse out the sanitizing solution with clean water.

Fill the bottle to the top with regular tap water. (If your water utility company treats your tap water with chlorine, you do not need to add anything else to the water to keep it clean.) If the water you are using comes from a well or water source that is not treated with chlorine, add two drops of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to each gallon of water. (*Mama's note: you can do this when you are ready to use it so you don't waste bleach*). Tightly close the container using the original cap. Be careful not to contaminate the cap by touching the inside of it with your fingers. Write the date on the outside of the container so that you know when you filled it. Store the containers in a cool, dark place.

Think about these ways too:

- Fill your empty canning jars
- Purchase bottled water and store under beds or in closets (editors note: But not in direct contact with concrete)
- Buy 5 gallon jugs

See the post [5 Easy Ways to Begin Your Water Storage](#) from PreparednessMama

Finding Water

If you find yourself in a predicament and haven't taken the time to store enough water for your family then you need to know how to find it. You should know how to evaluate it for drinking safety, because found water may not be safe.

In your home: Know the likely places to find water in your house? Your hot water heater typically holds 40 gallons. You can access it by turning off the power source and opening the valve at the bottom, it's that simple.

Your toilet TANK – not the bowl – holds a few gallons and is quite safe to use...unless you have added a cleaner to it.

Outside: You can look to the sky and create your own water still with the morning dew and a tarp. This will not give you enough water for gulping, but it may just keep you alive.

If you are in the right part of the country (or it's the right time of year) you can put out buckets and collect rain water. Be sure and treat rain water before drinking or cooking. Because of environmental contaminants, it is not safe to drink on its own.

Since water runs downhill...look at the bottom of hills to see if there are any accessible streams. This post from Survival.org, [How to Find Water](#), should help.

Treating Water

The simplest and best way to treat water is to boil it. Whether on the stove or on a fire, found objects like tin cans or even soda cans will work in a pinch to boil water. Boiling may be impractical if you are away from home. It requires time and fuel to be effective. Consider having a small [folding camp stove](#) and [fuel](#) in your 72-hour kit and boil water for one minute to make it safe from contaminants. Note: NEVER try to treat flood water, that's just too nasty to use.

Chemical disinfectant is lightweight, expensive and has an indefinite shelf life. [Iodine based tablets](#) are usually used, but the water they produce has an off taste. You better try it before you rely on this as your only method of purification.

Another popular disinfectant is chlorine bleach. Used on clear water the ratio is: 1/8 teaspoon bleach per 1 gallon water. Add it to the water and let it stand for about 30 minutes before using it. If you are treating cloudy water, change that to 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. Some people use [pool shock](#) as an alternative because it has a longer shelf life and is easier to store than bleach. This excellent article from Gaye at Backdoor Survival explains [how to use pool shock to treat water](#).

If you are able to find water from a stream, the first step is to filter it. This removes some contaminants and particles by passing it through a fine filter. It does not purify the water, so you must first filter and then disinfect to be safe.

You may find it easier to carry a [LifeStraw Personal Water Filter](#) in your kit, which will treat up to 1000 liters of contaminated water WITHOUT iodine, chlorine, or other chemicals. Another option is the [Survivor Filter](#)

Bottle. It has a life time warranty and will clean 33,000 ounces before you need to replace the filter. I find these two options the easiest, mostly because going this route means I have taken the guess work out of treating water.

Our bodies are 75% water. Decide today which part of the water storage rules you need to work on – Saving enough for two weeks, knowing where to find it or having treatment resources on hand.

Other posts from PreparednessMama: [5 Ways to Begin your Water Storage](#) – [Water Storage Infographic](#)

II. The Family Emergency Plan

By Tyra Baird at <http://preparednessmama.com/family-emergency-plan-2/>

Start at the Beginning with your Family Emergency Plan

This is the trunk of the preparedness tree, and everything else branches out from your plan. A good plan covers five things:

- **Identify Hazards**
- **Evacuation Routes**
- **Assignments**
- **Contacts**
- **Shelter**

Identify Hazards

[What are you planning for?](#) Obviously you'll plan for a house fire, but is that really the only hazard in your area? What about tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, or wildfires? Each disaster requires a different plan. Download these [disaster fact sheets](#) to know how you can prepare for each one, or download the [Red Cross app](#) that goes with your most likely hazard.

Evacuation Routes

Typically families only plan how to evacuate their home in the case of a fire. That's great, but not helpful for the majority of your day. Do you know where everyone is on a typical day? Knowing travel routes for work and school and where they are throughout the day means that you know the most likely location of all loved ones in the event of a disaster, no matter what time of day. It also means you can better plan a quick and safe reunion. Plan for where you will meet if you're at work and your kids are at school. What about alternate routes home from work? Use mapquest to add this information to your plan.

Assignments

In the event of a disaster, there is more to consider than simply evacuating the premises. Who's in charge of shutting off the utilities? Who's going to grab the kids or the baby? Who will help those with special needs? How about who will grab the survival bags?

Contacts

Each plan needs 2 local contacts and at least 1 out of state contact. In the event of a disaster it may be easier to reach your mom in Idaho than the neighbor down the street. This is the foundation of your [communications plan](#).

Shelter

Most disasters will impact your basic necessities, mainly your shelter. What are your options? Do you plan on setting up your tent and camping in the yard until your home is cleared for habitation? Is there a school or church that will most likely become a designated shelter? These will become meeting places for your family. Be sure to include these in your routes as well.

As these five things come together, your plan will become a solid trunk for the rest of your emergency preparations. This is also the foundation of your family's psychological and emotional preparations as well.

Download the Oregon Go Kit Passport at: http://www.oregongeology.org/tsuclearinghouse/resources/pdfs/go-kit_passport.pdf to help create your plan and keep it written down and up to date.

DisasterReady.org is a free online training resource for disaster preparedness and humanitarian response workers. Their goals are to help educate disaster workers around the world, to learn, prepare and collaborate.

Mission Statement:

Through the contribution of our talent management technology, our capacity building programs, and the support of our entire ecosystem, we strengthen nonprofit organizations around the world by helping them develop, engage and empower their employees and the people they serve.

Volunteers can take advantage of this free web-based portal that provides training, a means of learning to engage, prepare and educate workers to be more effective in their response to a disaster and be a part of a team. The series of classes focus on key issues in humanitarian affairs. These e-learning classes are engaging and built by leading experts in the field. The www.DisasterReady.org portal allows aid workers to do what they do best: save lives, rebuild communities and restore hope.

Access the DisasterReady site, fill in the information, and log into the portal. When you have completed your login you will be able to view a multitude of classes. Some examples are: leadership, management, health and sanitation, first aid, writing effectively and conveying ideas, protecting health care, dealing with stress and many more.

Created by experts in humanitarian assistance and staff development, this initiative is a collaborative, nonprofit effort supported by prominent aid agencies such as the American Red Cross, UNICEF, World Vision and the Cornerstone On Demand Foundation.

Trash Day...Are you new to HB? Need information about street sweeping, garbage removal, or where's the public dump? By Brenda Welch

In December 2014, the Huntington Beach City Council discussed the possibility of increasing garbage fees for commercial users. It would be wise to stay attuned to these Council meetings for information in the city.

Rainbow Environmental Services (Rainbow) is a material collection and processing company that has been in business for over 50 years. Rainbow serves a host of communities in Orange County including: Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Sunset Beach, Surfside Colony, Westminster, Midway City, Costa Mesa, Irvine and Newport Beach. The telephone number is 714-847-3581 and more information can be obtained at www.Rainbowes.com.

Rainbow's 17 acre campus is located in Huntington Beach, California on Nichols St. between Warner and Slater. It is the site of a transfer station that is permitted to accept 4,000 tons per day. The state-of-the-art single stream clean material recovery facility and several mixed waste processing stations were designed to efficiently handle various material streams such as green and wood waste, commercial and multifamily waste, construction and demolition debris. The public dump is in the same location.

Is there something I can do if I see people scavenging from my carts?

Scavenging is against the law, please call (SCAVENGING ENFORCEMENT HOTLINE) City of HB 714-374-1739.

What should be done on collection days?

- Please set carts out by 6:30 am on collection day.
- Please position your carts on the street in the same spot they were placed when delivered to you with the wheels touching the curb.
- Make sure they are at least 1 foot apart and at least 2 feet away from any obstruction like parked cars or walls.
- PLEASE REMOVE CARTS FROM STREET AFTER SERVICE.

Recycling and Disposal Information can be acquired online by going to: <http://www.rainbowes.com>. The information online is also available in Spanish and Vietnamese.

Call the Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at (714) 834-6752 or visit the OC Waste & Recycling web site. Hazardous waste must be in its original container except motor oil and antifreeze.

Hazardous Waste Business Hours:

Open 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday. Closed on Sunday, Monday and rainy days.

Disposal of Expired and Unused Medications

Most medicines used in a home are not considered hazardous waste. Although the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center will accept medications, medications can also be disposed of in the trash after being secured in durable packaging. The Huntington Beach Police Department has a drop box in the lobby to dispose of unused non-liquid prescription medication.

Free Battery Collection Buckets

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center now offers free battery buckets in which to place your old batteries. These free reusable buckets make it convenient to dispose of household batteries and cellphones. You may pick one up at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at Rainbow.

Questions regarding your residential trash bill?

Your trash service is included with your water bill. Please contact the city in which you live for billing questions or to establish service. 714-375-5010 for Huntington Beach Public Works or 714-593-4420 for Fountain Valley - Water and Trash Service Billing

Also you can obtain information on the Rainbow website about the use of **Rent-A-Bin**. Plus there is information on the website which includes educational videos and a section entitled Kids Make the Difference!

Reminder...

When Shopping in Huntington Beach, Remember to Bring Your Reusable Bags

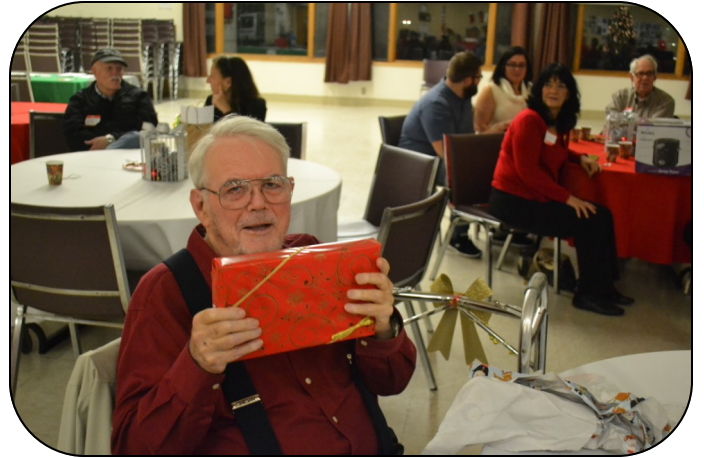
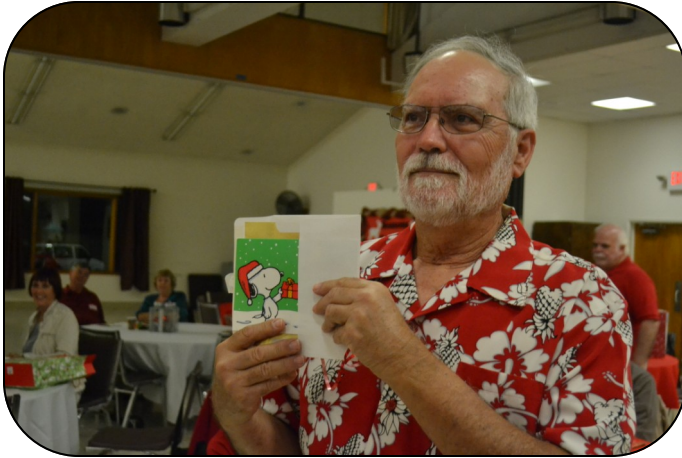
Since November 1, 2013, the **Reusable Bag Ordinance** has been in effect in the City of Huntington Beach. The Ordinance **prohibits the distribution of single use plastic carryout bags** in commercial point of sale purchases within the City. This Ordinance initiates a communitywide shift from the use of plastic and paper carryout bags and **promotes the use of reusable bags** for retail customers in Huntington Beach in order to help protect the beaches and oceans.

Huntington Beach Street Sweeping

For more information about the Street Sweeping program or your neighborhood's street sweeping schedule, contact the city's Public Works Maintenance Operations at 714-960-8861.







December 13, 2014 Holiday party PHOTOS continued from the January NEWSLETTER



Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is to provide information and training on disaster preparedness; provide leadership and coordination during an emergency, and assistance to help victims recover from an emergency.

CPR Classes

Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee. Dates are listed below:

- Saturday, February 7, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 18, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Saturday, March 14, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277 or 714-556-4277. Class location is in the HB area and exact location given at time of enrollment.

Upcoming Events & Activities

- CERT General membership meeting, 6:30pm February 12, 2015 in B8
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- CERT Skills Training Day, March 21, 8AM to 12PM at Huntington Beach Civic Center

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

CERT Website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert CERT Contact: CERT@surfcity-hb.org
CERT Message line 714-536-5974 (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)